

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *7-2-75*

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Dear Frank:

We have read with interest your letter of March 25 and memoranda of conversation covering your fourth and fifth meetings with the Japanese on the PCN treaty. We are passing these advance reports on to Herman Walker who is currently preparing comments on points which seem to require clarification. When your despatch comes in we should therefore be well on our way toward having a reply ready. In the meantime, Herman intends to send out to you next week via Thayer White some informal notes which will cover certain points which it seems advisable to clarify before your despatches are received here.

As Thayer stated in his recent letter, we think you are making excellent progress in your talks with the Japanese, contrary to your belief that you should be able to move along faster if the Japanese are sincere in saying that no major differences of opinion exist. I realize that the Japanese insistence on going over the draft with a fine toothed comb may be very trying at close range, but to us it indicates that they are willing to do a conscientious and workmanlike job and that they will realize that conclusion of an PCN treaty with the United States will involve a serious commitment on the part of the Japanese Government.

In the experience of Herman and others who have lived through similar long drawn out discussions with other

countries

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countries, the painfully slow preliminaries are necessary to assure both that the full-dress negotiations will proceed smoothly and that when the treaty subsequently comes into force, no differences of opinion will arise over provisions whose meaning may have been taken for granted during the technical discussions. We all appreciate the hard work that you, Bassin, Singer and Adams are doing on the PCN treaty and admire the degree of expertness which you have achieved in this very technical field.

Sincerely yours,

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Noel Herrendinger
Officer in Charge, Economic Affairs
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